

WASHINGTON TIMES

25 November 1983

ARTICLE APPROVED

7A

Soviets seek to discredit alliance with criticism of counterbuildup

NATO countries this month began receiving 572 U.S. medium-range missiles to offset a threat posed by 250 SS-20 missiles with three warheads each aimed at them from East bloc countries. Washington Times correspondent Ted Agres reports in the last of five articles on the Kremlin's efforts to convince the world that the NATO deployments are unnecessary and provocative.

By Ted Agres
WASHINGTON TIMES STAFF

The recent debate over the deployment of new U.S. medium-range missiles in Western Europe reflects a deeper disagreement among the participants concerning Soviet and NATO intentions and how these affect war and peace in the region.

Italy, Britain, West Germany and other NATO countries — perceiving a growing military threat posed by some 250 SS-20 triple-warhead nuclear missiles already targeted on European capitals by the Soviet bloc — have opted to install 572 Pershing II and cruise missiles on their territory over the next four years.

Members of the "peace movement" have taken to the streets and engaged in political, educational and other activities, saying the deployments only increase the possibility of nuclear war in Europe.

The Kremlin encourages this effort to prevent the NATO deployments as a part of its own attempt to block the buildup of NATO defenses.

Toward this end, according to U.S. officials and government reports, the Soviet Union is engaged in a massive, well-funded and organized propaganda campaign to sway world opinion against installation of the new missiles.

The CIA estimates that from 1977 to 1980, the Soviets invested more than \$100 million in the campaign against the neutron bomb, the forerunner to the missile modernization program now under way in Europe.

These Soviet efforts are viewed as part of a larger campaign, called "active measures," organized and controlled by the Kremlin. The measures are said to include disinformation, forgery, propaganda and a variety of other overt and covert activities.

The measures also are designed to "influence the policies of foreign governments in directions favorable to the U.S.S.R. and to thwart opposition to Soviet policies," especially by undermining relations between NATO allies, according to a State Department report.

The Soviet intention, officials say, is to maintain an image that the Kremlin is fundamentally "peace-loving" and interested in solving world problems without resorting to force — which it frequently accuses the United States and NATO of preferring.

Active measures, with respect to the "peace offensive" currently being waged against deployment of U.S. cruise and Pershing II missiles in Western Europe, take many forms.

Included are covert funding of Western "peace movement" activities and programs via Communist Party channels and organizational assistance for anti-nuclear protests and demonstrations.

While the Soviets are not in direct control of the Western "peace movements," they do exercise substantial influence.

"The Soviets believe they can achieve (their) objectives through a planned series of arms control

and disarmament proposals that play on the sentiments of Western peace movements," states a recent FBI report.

Portions of the report, "Soviet Active Measures Relating to the U.S. Peace Movement," were declassified at the request of Rep. Bill Young, R-Fla.

"Through its intricate propaganda network, the Soviets are trying to convince the world that the United States supports the nuclear arms race and is thwarting attempts to negotiate a nuclear arms freeze," Rep. Young said.

"The Soviets spend \$3 to \$4 billion a year in active measures campaigns to attack the credibility of the U.S. and to undermine our influence in the world, including with our allies," he charged.

According to the FBI report, Soviet leaders have publicly backed the peace and freeze movements "with the prospect that Western public opinion might dissuade Western governments from

deploying the new weapons systems."

"The Soviets have initiated an active measures campaign designed to penetrate, influence and mobilize the U.S. peace movement and to discredit American defense and arms control" efforts, the report states.

The State Department's Arms Control and Disarmament Agency last month outlined how the Soviet Union has been engaged in an "intensive propaganda campaign" to discredit NATO's efforts at responding to "the continuing Soviet buildup of the SS-20 missile."

The study, produced for ACDA by Charles A. Sorrels, a defense expert, claims the Soviets have spread anti-NATO themes and ideas "which are false or misleading and are often intended to intimidate the West as well."

CONTINUED